



# Distal Fingertip Injuries in the Pediatric Population

Kathleen Busa, Kyle R. Eberlin MD, Donald S. Bae MD, Peter Waters MD, Brian I. Labow MD, Amir H. Taghinia MD

## OBJECTIVES

- Fingertip injuries are common in the pediatric population
- Despite this, very few studies delineate the epidemiology of these injuries in children

## METHODS

- Retrospective review at Boston Children's Hospital, a tertiary care institution
- 1877 patients presented to the ER from 2005 to 2011 with fingertip injuries
- Data collected: age, gender, laterality, digit(s) involved, presence of associated fracture, nail bed involvement, mechanism of injury, and treatment

## RESULTS

- Average age was 8.6 +/- 5.9 (SD); median age: 7.7 yrs
- Males were injured more commonly (59%)
- Right hand was injured more frequently (52%)
- Most common mechanism of injury was crush (usually by a door or window)
- Majority of patients underwent closure/repair in the ER (68%)

## CONCLUSIONS

- This is the largest epidemiological study on fingertip injuries in children
- These injuries are mostly preventable
- Although most of these heal well, they do produce morbidity, time away from school, and a cost burden to society
- We should raise awareness about fingertip injury prevention for children

Digit Injured	N	%
Thumb	363	19.34%
Index	353	18.81%
Middle	399	21.26%
Ring	348	18.54%
Small	270	14.38%
Multiple	144	7.67%

Mechanism of Injury	N	%
Crush in door/window	659	35.11%
Other crush injury	188	10.02%
Mechanical device	98	5.22%
Sports injury	208	11.08%
Sharp laceration	544	28.98%
Bite	34	1.81%
Burn	2	0.11%
Strangulation	3	0.16%
Fall	69	3.68%
Altercation	21	1.12%
Other/Unspecified	51	2.72%

Injury Type	N	%
No Fracture	1227	65.37%
Open Fracture	179	9.54%
Closed Fracture	471	25.09%
Tip Amputation	103	5.49%
Nailbed Injury	492	26.21%